



TOWN OF EAGAR

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 1, 2025 at 6:00 PM

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, 22 WEST 2ND
STREET**

MINUTES

Mayor Guy Phelps called the regular session to order and welcomed those present. Mayor Phelps requested that the record show all Councilmembers are present. Mayor Guy Phelps led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilmember Titan Merrill offered the invocation.

5. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Town Manager Brannon Eagar provided several updates:

1. He addressed the ongoing work by Mr. Lester on the property across from Cowboy Up, which is within the town of Eagar. Eagar acknowledged some controversy surrounding the project but assured the council that Mr. Lester is working directly with the town and has an engineering firm overseeing the dirt work. He emphasized that everything is being done correctly despite complaints from non-residents.
2. Eagar reported the recent purchase of three used vehicles from an internal agency auction, updating the town's fleet by about 15 years each. The total cost for these vehicles was \$17,000, which he noted was a good price obtained through the ADOT internal agency auction.
3. He informed the council that the cul-de-sac project on the west end of Fourth Avenue has been completed, with John and his crew doing an excellent job. Repairs on the bridge will begin once the weather improves.

Manager Eagar clarified that the used vehicles would be used for various town departments such as water, sewer, and roads. He mentioned that the majority of their vehicles were from between 2000-2004, with one or two still from the 1990s. The newly acquired vehicles will provide newer models with less mileage. Eagar also noted that the town plans to auction off the three vehicles being replaced.

Finance Director David Lamm provided a budgetary update as of February 28, 2025:

1. The operating account balance was \$870,000.
2. The LGIP account balance was \$6,700,000.
3. The total cash position was \$7,600,000.
4. The town continues to transfer \$75,000 monthly into the LGIP account, which is currently earning about 4% interest.

5. At 67% through the fiscal year, all revenues are on track to meet budgetary levels.
6. Expenditures are below the 67% threshold, with the general fund at 40%, HURF at 32%, and utilities at 38%.

Town Clerk Jessica Vaughan provided several updates:

1. The Fourth of July permit has been submitted for review and approval.
2. The Fourth of July flyer has been distributed with the theme "Made in America."
3. Eric Goodman has accepted the role of grand marshal for the Fourth of July celebrations.
4. Fireworks for the Fourth of July have been scheduled.
5. Planning for Eagar Days on June 14th is underway, including arrangements for festivities and a fishing tournament.
6. The process of scanning permanent town documents for record retention is ongoing.
7. Work on updating policies for the July council meeting is in progress.

Community Development Director provided several updates:

Reynolds also mentioned that a \$7,000 donation for fireworks has been received or is forthcoming. She is seeking additional donations and sponsorships from organizations such as SRP and TEP.

Reynolds and Vice Mayor Tucker met with a representative from a congressman's office who is trying to increase their presence in the area and assist with determining projects and areas that need help. The representative expressed interest in attending more events and being more involved in the area.

Reynolds requested direction from the council regarding a meeting between the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Town Council to discuss the ongoing work on codes and zoning related to box containers and railroad cars. The council agreed to have the Planning and Zoning Commission attend the first council meeting in May to address this matter.

Public Works director John Pedroncelli reported that they have been working on drainage at the new firehouse and the skate park. He also mentioned plans to start installing a sprinkler system for the cemetery enlargement in the week of April 14th.

Fire Captain Robert Pena provided an update on fireworks preparations:

1. The first portion of the fireworks order has been received, including 144 tubes for 3-inch and 4-inch shells.
2. They are working on upgrading their wiring system to push for more electric ignition rather than hand-lit fireworks to improve the show's timing and appearance.
3. Some of the purchases were made possible through a donation from JT Thorpe last fall.

Captain Pena also noted that fire season has arrived.

Police Chief Dayson Merrill presented statistics for March 2025:

1. 344 total incidents
2. 110 calls for service
3. 234 officer-initiated actions
4. 47 total officer cases
5. 11 total arrests (10 misdemeanors, 1 felony)
6. Current staffing: 10 sworn officers and 5 volunteers

Merrill reported that the department has lost their animal control officer and is currently seeking a full-time replacement. They are also in talks with someone interested in the part-time animal control position.

He mentioned that they have completed a background check on a potential new hire for a police cadet position, a local young man.

Merrill also noted ongoing discussions and negotiations regarding a potential change in dispatch services, possibly moving to dispatch with Show Low.

6. OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Terry Shove provided updates on several community matters:

1. The dome floor at an unspecified location has been completed and looks nice.
2. The local baseball team is currently ranked sixth in the state, which is reportedly the highest ranking they've ever achieved.
3. She discussed the upcoming March for Meals for Seniors fundraiser on April 26th at 9 AM (check-in at 8:30 AM). Terry emphasized the importance of this event due to recent and upcoming cuts in USDA funding. She mentioned that the fundraiser made about \$9,000 last year and stressed the vital role of the meal delivery program for local seniors.
4. Terry requested council members to consider pledging for her walk in the March for Meals event and to donate items for the silent auction if possible.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2025 (JESSICA VAUGHAN)
- B. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2025 NATIONAL BANK OF ARIZONA TRANSMITTALS, CHECKS WRITTEN, PAYROLL DIRECT DEPOSIT VOUCHERS, AND CREDIT CARD PURCHASES (DAVID LAMM)
- C. ACCEPTANCE OF FEBRUARY 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT AND SALES TAX REPORT (DAVID LAMM)
- D. APPROVAL TO PROCLAIM APRIL 25, 2025, AS ARBOR DAY WITHIN THE TOWN OF EAGAR (JESSICA VAUGHAN)

E. APPROVAL TO PROCLAIM APRIL "FAIR HOUSING MONTH" (JESSICA VAUGHAN)

Councilman Ray Hamblin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman William Greenwood seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:	Ayes:	Guy Phelps
		Marsha Tucker
		Titan Merrill
		Brandon Slade
		Ray Hamblin
		William Greenwood
		Bryce Burnham

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE TO GO OUT FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR AUDIT SERVICES

David Lamm, Finance Director explained that this was for the town's annual audit, which is required by the state. He noted that Colby and Powell had been conducting the annual audits since fiscal year 2020, but their contract was now up. David proposed going out for request for proposals to get proposals from different audit firms and engage them for the next 3 to 5 years to conduct the annual audit.

Councilman Bryce Burnham asked if they would be getting a proposal from Colby and Powell, as they had done a good job. David confirmed that they could submit a new proposal.

Mr. Lamm stated that the most recent audit cost about \$30,000.

Councilman Ray Hamblin made a motion to approve to go out for Request for Proposals for Audit Services. Councilman William Greenwood seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:	Ayes:	Guy Phelps
		Marsha Tucker
		Titan Merrill
		Brandon Slade
		Ray Hamblin
		William Greenwood
		Bryce Burnham

B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO WAIVE PARK FEE'S FOR ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RUN

Jessica Vaughan, Town Clerk, explained that the Arizona Department of Corrections was requesting a waiver of the Ramsey Park fees for the Special Olympics torch run

on Monday, April 20th. The event would end at Ramsey Park, where they planned to have a barbecue and raffle items.

Jessica Vaughan clarified that the fees included a \$100 refundable deposit and an additional \$100 for the use of the Ramada and kitchen.

Mayor Guy Phelps made a motion to approve waiving park fees for the Arizona Department of Corrections for the Special Olympics Torch Run. Councilman Bryce Burnham seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:	Ayes:	Guy Phelps
		Marsha Tucker
		Titan Merrill
		Brandon Slade
		Ray Hamblin
		William Greenwood
		Bryce Burnham

C. DISCUSSION AND FIRST READING FOR ORDINANCE 2025-01 UNDERGROUND ORDINANCE

Manager Eagar presented the proposed changes to Chapter 12.4, Placement of Utility Lines Underground. He read through the modifications, which included updates to definitions, clarifications on when underground placement is required, and provisions for waivers.

Key changes included:

- Updated definition of development/redevelopment
- Clarified voltage ratings for primary distribution lines and transmission lines
- Specified requirements for underground placement of utility lines
- Added provisions for waivers and the process for requesting them
- Clarified exceptions for maintenance, temporary installations, and transmission lines

Mayor Guy Phelps noted that the original ordinance was too restrictive and that these changes would provide more flexibility while still encouraging underground utilities. Manager Eagar added that there were checks and balances in the system, allowing for appeals to the council if needed.

No Motion

D. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A JOINT DEFENSE AGREEMENT FOR SHARED SERVICES

Brett Rigg, Town Attorney explained that this agreement was related to the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Eagar and Springerville for police and fire services operations, entered into in January 2023. The joint defense agreement would cover liability, property, and casualty claims arising from these departments.

The agreement would allow the towns to work together, share privileged materials, and jointly share defense costs. The cost allocation was set at 52% for Eagar and 48% for Springerville, based on the original IGA.

Mr. Rigg emphasized the importance of putting this agreement in place, even though it was delayed by two years. He noted that without this agreement, the towns might face challenges in sharing information during potential litigation.

Councilman William Greenwood made a motion to approve a Joint Defense Agreement for Shared Services. Councilman Ray Hamblin seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:	Ayes:	Guy Phelps
		Marsha Tucker
		Titan Merrill
		Brandon Slade
		Ray Hamblin
		William Greenwood
		Bryce Burnham

E. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A GRANT AGREEMENT FOR THE RURAL FIRE CAPACITY GRANT

Robert Pena, Fire Captain explained that this was a grant agreement for a recently awarded grant. The grant was a 50/50 match, with the town being awarded \$10,000. The town's share was estimated to be around \$4,077, which was already accounted for in the current budget.

Councilman Bryce Burnham made a motion to approve a grant agreement for the Rural Fire Capacity Grant. Councilman Brandon Slade seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:	Ayes:	Guy Phelps
		Marsha Tucker
		Titan Merrill
		Brandon Slade
		Ray Hamblin
		William Greenwood
		Bryce Burnham

F. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2025 F- 150 FROM SHOW LOW FORD NOT TO EXCEED \$49,500

David Lamm, Finance Director, presented the proposal to purchase a 2025 Ford F-150 from Show Low Ford for a price not to exceed \$49,500. He explained that this would be a town vehicle used for staff travel and training around the state. Currently, staff had been using personal vehicles for such trips.

The vehicle would be a 4-door, 4x4 pickup. David noted that they had checked prices at multiple dealerships, and Show Low Ford offered the lowest price, even compared to other dealerships with state contracts.

Manager Eagar stated the benefits of having a town vehicle, including reduced liability and reimbursement costs for personal vehicle use. He also noted that the vehicle could be transferred to Public Works in the future for water and sewer department use.

Councilman Ray Hamblin made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2025 F-150 from Show Low Ford not to exceed \$49,500. Councilman William Greenwood seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:	Ayes:	Guy Phelps
		Marsha Tucker
		Titan Merrill
		Brandon Slade
		Ray Hamblin
		William Greenwood
		Bryce Burnham

10.ADJOURNMENT

Councilman William Greenwood made a motion to adjourn at [at 6:49 p.m.]. Vice-mayor Marsha Tucker seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:	Ayes:	Guy Phelps
		Marsha Tucker
		Titan Merrill
		Brandon Slade
		Ray Hamblin
		William Greenwood
		Bryce Burnham

Attest: _____

Mayor: _____

Vice-Mayor: _____

Council: _____

CERTIFICATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town of Eagar, Arizona held on April 1, 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Jessica Vaughan, Town Clerk